The Scheme for promotion and dissemination of Tribal/Folk Art and Culture provides grants and subsidies for undertaking projects for (i) documentation, research, survey and photographic record of artistic manifestations of tribal art; (ii) identify systems of formal and non-formal education to disseminate awareness of the richness of the tribal culture and life; and (iii) preservation and propagation of tribal art, crafts, oral traditions and other facets of tribal and rural culture.

Zonal Cultural Centers (ZCCs) had been set up by the Government with the objective of preserving and promoting various art forms particularly folk art forms including artifacts. These Centres have been taking effective steps to preserve and promote folk/tribal artifacts through Shilp Mela and workshop-cum-exhibitions. Besides this, ZCCs operate two schemes: Documentation of Vanishing Art Forms and Guru Shishya Parampara to preserve and promote folk/tribal art.

The Scheme for financial assistance for 'Promotion and Strengthening of Regional and Local Museums' provides, *inter-alia*, grant for the professional development of museums for the promotion and preservation of artifacts including antiquities, numismatics, paintings, ethnological collections, folk art etc.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides grants to the State Governments for Tribal Research Institutes for research, evaluation studies, seminars/ workshops, training programmes and museums, which includes the exhibition and preservation/conservation of tribal artifacts.

Apart from these schemes, the major museums also ensure the preservation and conservation of artifacts in their possession.

World Heritage status to NMR

1035. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nilgiris Mountain Railway (NMR) is proposed to be given world heritage status;

(b) whether the UNESCO experts have recommended for the grant of the above status;

(c) if so, the present position of the case;

(d) whether any other monument is also proposed to be conferred the above status; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Indian Railways as State Party has applied for inscription of Nilgiri Mountain Railway as a Serial Nomination to Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, as a World Heritage site.

(b) and (c) An UNESCO expert had visited Nilgiri Mountain Railway during 27th and 28th September, 2004 for inspection of the property with respect to the nomination application filed by Indian Railways. He will submit his recommendation directly to UNESCO. The contents of his recommendation are not known.

(d) and (e) Nomination dossiers for Shri Hariminder Sahib, Amritsar; and Majuli Island in Assam have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for consideration of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

NEC projects in Tripura

1036. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the NEC projects in Tripura in respect of industry;

(b) what are the schemes undertaken by NEC for development of Tea Processing factory of Leelagarh Cha Bagan Sramik Samabaya Samiti Ltd., Durgabari Tea Estate Workers Cooperative Society Ltd. and Bamboo development for socio-economic upliftment of the rural people; and

(c) the details of the programmes and achievements, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The status of NEC Projects in Tripura in respect of industries is enclosed in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) The NEC has funded Tea Processing in Leelagarh Cha Bagan Sramik Samabay Samiti Limited at a cost of Rs. 32.37 Lac and Durgabari Tea Estate Workers Cooperative Society Limited at a cost of Rs. 25 Lac. It is funding Bamboo development for socio-economic upliftment of rural people at a cost of Rs. 3.435 Crore.